

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 18, 24, and 30, and add new claims 31-35, as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A foam construction block, comprising:

3 a rectangular molded block of foam forming at least one horizontally-extending void and at least one vertically-extending void, at least one of the vertically-extending voids extending between the top and bottom surfaces of said block ~~and being tapered along its length~~, and at least one of the horizontally-extending voids extending between the side surfaces of said block, at least one of said horizontally-extending voids intersecting at least one of said vertically-extending voids; and

(a facing bonded to an exterior surface of said block during the molding) of the block, said facing being adapted to cover ~~covering~~ substantially all of the exterior surface ~~face~~ of the block to which it is adhered.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The foam construction block of claim 1 ~~26~~ wherein said facing comprises two facing pieces adhered to said block of foam in abutting relation, such that said block of foam ~~(may be)~~ cut transversely into two pieces, each of which has one of said facing pieces adhered thereto.

Claim 3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): The foam construction block of claim 1 ~~26~~ wherein a mesh material is embedded in the inwardly-facing surface of said facing and protrudes



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therefrom, and wherein said mesh material protruding from the facing is embedded in said block of foam during the molding of the block.

Claim 5 (original): The foam construction block of claim 4 wherein said mesh material comprises a wire mesh.

Claim 6 (original): The foam construction block of claim 5 wherein said wire mesh comprises chicken wire.

B Claim 7 (currently amended): The foam construction block of claim 1 ~~26~~ wherein said block of foam comprises urethane foam.

Claims 8-17 (cancelled).

Claim 18 (currently amended): A foam construction block, comprising a molded block of foam of rectangular horizontal and vertical cross section, said block having first and second ends, first and second side faces, and upper and lower faces, and having at least one horizontally-extending void formed along one of the upper and lower surfaces and extending between said end faces, and having a facing attached to the block of foam, the facing being attached to the block of foam simultaneously with the molding of the block of foam at least one tapered void formed in the block body and extending between the upper and lower surfaces.

Claim 19 (original): The block of claim 18 wherein said foam block is a urethane foam block.

Claims 20-23 (cancelled)



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Claim 24 (currently amended): The block of claim 18 wherein the facing consists of cement ~~a facing is bonded to the block during the molding process.~~

Claim 25 (previously added): The block of claim 24 wherein said foam block is a urethane foam block.

Claim 26-29 (withdrawn).

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Claim 30 (currently amended): The foam construction block of claim 1 wherein said facing consists of cement ~~is a cementitious facing.~~

Claim 31 (newly added): The foam construction block of claim 1 wherein the block further includes at least one tapered void formed in the block body and extending between the upper and lower surfaces.

Claim 32 (newly added): The block of claim 18 wherein at least one of the vertically-extending voids comprises a tapered void.

Claim 33 (newly added): The block of claim 32 wherein said mesh material comprises a wire mesh.

Claim 34 (newly added): The block of claim 33 wherein said wire mesh comprises chicken wire.

Claim 35 (newly added): The block of claim 18 wherein the block has at least one tapered void formed in the block body and extending between the upper and lower surfaces.



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